

111TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. RES. 364

Condemning all forms of anti-Semitism and reaffirming the support of Congress for the mandate of the Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 27, 2009

Mr. KLEIN of Florida (for himself, Mr. PENCE, Mr. BERMAN, Ms. ROSELEHTINEN, Mr. WAXMAN, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, Mr. MCMAHON, Ms. BERKLEY, Mr. WEXLER, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, Mrs. CAPPES, Mr. KIRK, Mr. KAGEN, Mr. ELLISON, Mrs. MALONEY, Mr. HOLT, Mr. GRAYSON, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. HALL of New York, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, Mr. POE of Texas, Mr. LANCE, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. HENSARLING, Mr. WOLF, and Mr. ROHRABACHER) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

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## RESOLUTION

Condemning all forms of anti-Semitism and reaffirming the support of Congress for the mandate of the Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism, and for other purposes.

Whereas in 2004, Congress passed the Global Anti-Semitism Review Act, which established an Office to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism, headed by a Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism, which provides Congress with the Contemporary Global Anti-Semitism Report, most recently in 2004 and 2008;

Whereas according to the Contemporary Global Anti-Semitism Report released by the Department of State's Office of the Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism, "[o]ver the last decade, United States embassies and consulates have reported an upsurge in anti-Semitism";

Whereas anti-Semitic acts committed and recorded in 2008 and 2009 include violent attacks and death threats against Jews, as well as gun violence, arson, graffiti, stoning, and other desecration of Jewish communal property and places of worship;

Whereas the U.S. Department of State and other foreign governments and multilateral institutions have noted the challenge of gathering data on anti-Semitism, particularly in more closed societies with limited victims' rights;

Whereas the 2008 Department of State Contemporary Global Anti-Semitism Report notes the growth of comparisons of Israeli policy to that of the Nazis and that, despite growing efforts by governments to promote Holocaust remembrance, the Holocaust is frequently invoked as part of anti-Semitic harassment as a rhetorical means to threaten and offend Jews;

Whereas since the commencement of Israel's military operation in Gaza on December 27, 2008, a substantial increase in violence, including physical and verbal attacks, arson and vandalism against synagogues, and desecration of cemeteries and Holocaust memorial sites have been reported;

Whereas interspersed with expressions of criticism of Israeli policy and actions, anti-Semitic imagery and comparisons of Jews and Israel to Nazis have been widespread at

demonstrations against Israel's action around the United States, Europe, the Middle East, and Latin America;

Whereas placards held at many demonstrations across the globe have compared Israeli leaders to Nazis, accused Israel of carrying out a "Holocaust" against Palestinians, and equated the Jewish Star of David with the Nazi swastika;

Whereas demonstrations have included chants of "death to Israel" or expressions of support for suicide terrorism against Israeli or Jewish civilians;

Whereas Jewish communities face an environment in which the convergence of anti-Semitic sentiment and demonization of Israel in the media and the public debate have fostered a hostile environment and a sense of insecurity in these countries;

Whereas incitement to hatred, discrimination, and violence against Jews continues in some state-run media, particularly in the Middle East, where government-owned, government-sanctioned, or government-controlled publishing media promulgate anti-Jewish stereotypes, such as the myth of the Jewish blood libels in editorial cartoons and articles, and produce Arabic translations of anti-Semitic tracts such as "The Protocols of the Elders of Zion" and "Mein Kampf";

Whereas some governments fail to respond adequately to anti-Semitic incidents including attacks on Jewish citizens, monuments, building, and cemeteries;

Whereas the latest incidents in Venezuela include an incident on January 30, 2009, when the Tiferet Israel synagogue in Caracas was attacked by armed men who destroyed religious objects, spray-painted "Jews, get out" on the syn-

agogue walls, and stole a computer database with the congregation's personal information, and an incident on February 26, 2009, when assailants threw an explosive at a Jewish community center in Caracas;

Whereas, on January 6, 2009, Hamas leader, Mahmoud al-Zahar, argued that Jewish children and Jewish people around the world are “legitimate” targets for murder;

Whereas Iran's leader Mahmoud Ahmadinejad has denied that the Holocaust ever occurred and has called Israel a “filthy bacteria” and a “disgraceful blot” that should be “wiped off the map”;

Whereas, on February 24, 2009, Libya's leader, Muammar Gaddafi, falsely accused Israel of being among the countries fueling the violence in Darfur's Sudan region;

Whereas, on January 13, 2009, President Nicolas Sarkozy of France “utterly condemned the unacceptable violence . . . against individuals, private property, and religious buildings” and assured “that these acts would not go unpunished”;

Whereas, on January 28, 2009, Argentine Justice and Security Minister Anibal Fernandez pledged to take action against anti-Semitism in Argentina;

Whereas the Dutch Justice Minister Ernst Hirsch Ballin announced on January 14, 2009, that he would investigate allegations of anti-Semitism and incitement to hatred and violence at anti-Israel demonstrations; and

Whereas, on February 25, 2009, Prime Minister Gordon Brown became the first world leader to sign the London Declaration on combating anti-Semitism, which calls on governments and parliamentarians to engage in education, community outreach, training, threat identifica-

tion, and other measures and adopt proven and best practice methods of countering antisemitism: Now, therefore, be it

1       *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

2               (1) condemns any and all official and unofficial  
3       sanctioning of anti-Semitic activity by any govern-  
4       ment;

5               (2) expresses its commitment to continue to  
6       make it a priority to fight anti-Semitism and to pro-  
7       mote tolerance at home and abroad;

8               (3) urges all governments to take all steps nec-  
9       essary to eradicate anti-Semitism and to promote re-  
10      ligious tolerance;

11              (4) applauds those foreign leaders who have  
12      condemned anti-Semitic acts and calls on those who  
13      have yet to take firm action against anti-Semitism  
14      in their countries, to do so;

15              (5) reaffirms its support for the mandate of the  
16      Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semi-  
17      tism; and

18              (6) urges the Secretary of State to—

19                      (A) maintain the fight against anti-Semi-  
20                      tism as a United States foreign policy priority  
21                      and to convey United States concern in bilateral  
22                      meetings;

1 (B) urge governments to ensure that ade-  
2 quate laws are in place to punish anti-Semitic  
3 violence as well as establish mechanisms to  
4 monitor, investigate, and punish anti-Semitic  
5 incidents;

6 (C) swiftly appoint the Department of  
7 State's Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat  
8 Anti-Semitism;

9 (D) ensure that the Department of State's  
10 Annual Country Reports on Human Rights  
11 Practices and International Religious Freedom  
12 Reports continue to document anti-Semitic inci-  
13 dents, as required by the Global Anti-Semitism  
14 Review Act, including—

15 (i) acts of physical violence against, or  
16 harassment of, Jewish people, and acts of  
17 violence against, or vandalism of, Jewish  
18 community institutions, such as schools,  
19 synagogues, or cemeteries, that occurred in  
20 each country;

21 (ii) the responses of the governments  
22 of those countries to such actions;

23 (iii) the actions taken by such govern-  
24 ments to enact and enforce laws relating to

1 the protection of the right to religious free-  
2 dom of Jewish people;

3 (iv) the efforts by such governments  
4 to promote anti-bias and tolerance edu-  
5 cation; and

6 (v) instances of propaganda in govern-  
7 ment and nongovernment media that at-  
8 tempt to justify or promote racial hatred  
9 or incite acts of violence against Jewish  
10 people;

11 (E) provide necessary training and instruc-  
12 tion for personnel of United States embassies  
13 and missions to analyze and report on anti-Se-  
14 mitic incidents as well as the response of gov-  
15 ernments to those incidents and to support vic-  
16 tims;

17 (F) ensure that United States efforts to  
18 train law enforcement personnel and prosecu-  
19 tors abroad incorporate tools to address anti-  
20 Semitism; and

21 (G) engage with the Organization for Secu-  
22 rity and Cooperation in Europe and support its  
23 efforts to monitor and address anti-Semitism,

- 1 including through support for its law enforce-
- 2 ment and civil society training programs.

